PRESIDENT : The Chief Engineer said "No."

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Chief Engineer has inspected that road at any time after he has assumed office ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Chief Engineer is aware that the allotment for the annual maintenance of the Chittar Road after the 7th mile is not utilised properly ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It seems to be a reflection upon the departmental officers that they have not expended the money and I do not accept that statement.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether non-official members cannot make any reflection upon the irregularities of the Government members or the Department ?

PRESIDENT : He does not accept the statement.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : The Chief Engineer said that he has not gone to that road ever since he took up office. At least after I have sent up this question he could have gone there. It is only 20 miles from the headquarters.

PRESIDENT : It cannot be called a gross error because it is not possible for the Chief Engineer to run up to every place which is connected with any interpellation that comes up before the House.

P. W. D. Tolls.

28. ✻ **MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the system existing in British India and Cochin in the matter of payment of P. W. D. toll ; and

(*b*) the principles underlying the location of toll-gates in different centres of the State at present ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) :

(*a*) Government are not aware.

(*b*) The vehicles that use the roads should contribute at least a portion of the annual expenditure towards the maintenance of the roads and a part of the capital expenditure for the construction of costly and important bridges.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether Government are aware of the representation of Mr. Karayalar regarding the abolition of the toll-gates ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : There have been several representations made for the abolition of toll-gates in Travancore.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether Government have considered all such representations regarding the abolition of toll gates ?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : All representations have been considered.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know from the Government whether they have arrived at any decision regarding the abolition of the levy of tolls ?

PRESIDENT : The question is about the abolition of toll-gates. The fact that toll is levied means that toll-gates have not been abolished.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know why they have not decided to abolish the tolls ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Government decided to keep up the tolls.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether it is the distance or any other circumstance that is taken into consideration in determining the question of the location of different toll-gates ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Tolls are put on the roads to help the State to maintain the roads in proper and efficient manner.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): That is not the answer to my question. My question with reference to part (*b*), is "the principles underlying the location of toll-gates in different centres of the State at present" and not the principle underlying the establishment of the toll-gates ?

MR. G. B. E TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Toll-gates are located at convenient places for the collection of tolls on that portion of the country.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know from the Government whether the distance between the toll-gates is also taken into consideration in determining the question of the location of the toll gates ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Yes, it is also taken into consideration.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know the total number of toll-gates between Trivandrum and Quilon and the distance between these two places ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : So far as I am aware, there is only one toll-gate. The distance from Trivandrum to the toll-gate is 20 miles. It is nearer to Quilon.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) May I know the total number of toll-gates between Quilon and Alleppey and the distance between these two places ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It seems to be a general question. I claim notice.

PRESIDENT : He has not a map of Travancore with him. He is not expected to answer all minor questions.

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): My question bears on part (*b*) of the question?

PRESIDENT: The member wants notice.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the total number of toll-gates between Trivandrum and Kottayam and the distance between these two places?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I must ask notice for it.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the total number of toll-gates between Kottayam and Kumili and the distance between these places?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware of a resolution passed in the old Council for the abolition of toll-gates?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know why they have not accepted the resolution?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Because money was required to repair the roads and maintain them.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The Chief Engineer said that toll-gates are established wherever it is convenient to collect the tolls. I want to know whether the junction near the Public Offices is a convenient place for the collection of tolls?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I do not think it is.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know why it is not convenient?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is a matter of opinion.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether Government observe any rule regarding the minimum distance for establishing toll-gates?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No general rule, usually about 20 miles.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether toll-gates are located at places which are connected by bridges?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I cannot answer that question now.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether more than 10 toll-gates are located as subsidiary toll-gates to one main toll?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member the number of subsidiary toll-gates attached to the Monday Market at Eraniel?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I believe we have four.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the Government the number of toll-gates through which a car has to pass and pay tolls between the places of Mulagumood, Colachel and Karingal.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I must ask notice for that.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In the course of the answer, the Chief Engineer said that tolls are levied for the maintenance of roads where such tolls are established. In the face of that answer I would like to know from the Chief Engineer what he has to say with regard to the neglected condition of the roads?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, a point of order. Can a member put any question to the *Chief Engineer*?

PRESIDENT: Mr. S. J. Nair is vigilant. (*Laughter*).

MR M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In the face of the Chief Engineer's answer that toll fees are levied for the maintenance of roads, I would like to know what he has to say in regard to the neglected condition of roads in spite of the establishment of toll-gates on those roads.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): The question is whether we utilise the allotments for the maintenance for roads. Some times the traffic on a particular road is increasing by leaps and bounds and the maintenance grant is not at times sufficient to keep that road in first class order.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): After the objections raised in this House against the system of toll-gates in the country, have the Government cared to ascertain whether the system obtaining in Cochin and British India is less objectionable than the system we get here?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): There are also toll-gates in British India.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): My question is whether the Government have cared to ascertain whether the system there is less objectionable and worthy of adoption here?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I do not know. They are paying toll fees in British India and in Cochin.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Are the Government aware of the system now existing in British India and Cochin with regard to toll-gates?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Not generally in British India; but there are toll-gates in British India and there are toll-gates in Cochin.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it the same system as here that prevails there?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Yes. They also charge a certain amount of money as toll fees.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Has the same car to pay toll on a number of gates in British India on the same day ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Yes, if you pass through them.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is the member sure ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : In some places in British India they pay and in some other places they do not.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : And at Cochin ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : They pay toll gate fees there.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Has the member tried to ascertain the conditions prevailing in those places and to copy them if they are less objectionable ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I do not know whether it is less objectionable. From Vaikam to Ernakulam, a distance of about twenty-eight miles, I have, had to pay at two toll gates. I have not complained about that.

PRESIDENT : Questions for the day please.

Revenue sales in Tiruvalla taluk.

29. ***MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR** (*Tiruvalla II*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of revenue sales held in the Tiruvalla Taluk Cutcherry during 1110 M. E.;

(*b*) the total area of lands sold under such sales ; and

(*c*) the number of such sales where revenues are due to the Edapally Chief and the total area of land so sold ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) :

(*a*) 706.

(*b*) 384·96 acres.

(*c*) 75 sales involving 96·65 acres.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : Wth reference to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know from the member the amount for which 384·96 acres has been sold ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : That information I have not got.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : May I know the amount for which 96·65 acres of land were sold ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : That question was not asked. Therefore the information was not furnished.

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